Course Description
In this course, students will develop the basic language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking in order to communicate comfortably and successfully in Italian. We will cover these grammatical elements:

- Single and plural articles
- Nouns and adjectives
- The verbs "to have" and "to be"
- Present indicative tense of regular and irregular verbs
- Introduction to prepositions
- Frequency adverbs
- Past tense

In addition there will be a focus on achieving cultural competency by covering topics such as Italian geography, Italian food and the Italian family. This course strongly emphasizes the use of Italian in everyday situations. We will focus on developing communication skills and increasing vocabulary in the following daily situations:

- Describing yourself
- Asking for and giving basic information
- Expressing personal needs, likes and dislikes
- Talking about family
- Describing daily activities
- Expressing past actions

Specific outcomes: by the end of the course the students will be able to demonstrate their ability to communicate comfortably in typical daily situations (introductions, in a café, at the market etc.) through role plays and written exams. They will also demonstrate comprehension of short oral dialogues and basic written texts. To complete the course, students must be able to compose in-class basic written texts in the form of e-mails, letters and short compositions.

During targeted class activities, students will be placed in situations which are linguistically challenging and culturally new for them, and asked to overcome communication barriers (e.g. speaking to Italians using both verbal and non-verbal forms of communication).

In this way, students will develop and demonstrate an awareness of and empathy toward people who face similar struggles in their environment, language and culture (immigrants, social linguistic minorities...). The outcome is for students to begin the process of becoming open minded global citizens.
Required text: *Nuovo Espresso* libro dello student e esercizi
L. Ziglio and G. Rizzo

The book can be purchased at the Feltrinelli Bookstore, Via de’ Cerretani 30 (red) It’s between the Duomo and the Santa Maria Novella train station. Please ask for a discount – “uno sconto” of 10%.

**Teaching Method**

The course offers interactive classes based on a communicative approach to language study. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of materials ranging from textbook, online resources, to audio and video materials, in order to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Different types of classroom activities are listening exercises, role-plays, interviews, grammar and vocabulary exercises, conversations and written compositions.

We will also organize a series of field trips and visits in Florence so that students can learn more about the city, interact with native speakers and practice Italian in authentic situations.

**Class Rules**

Cell-phones must be off. Food, beverages (except for bottled water) and chewing gum are not admitted in class.

Homework completed with the use of translation sites such as Google Translate will not be accepted.

**Gonzaga in Florence Attendance Policy**

Attendance is taken at the beginning of class from the first day of the semester. The student entering class after role has been taken has to contact the professor at the end of the lesson to record his/her presence. However, this does not mean that coming late is acceptable. Two late arrivals may be excused, three turn automatically into an absence and will affect the attendance and participation part of the final grade.

**Students can miss one week’s work**- **for ITA 101, four classes.** It is their responsibility to make up any missed work. If they miss a quiz or a report they can make it up only with the professor’s permission.

More than one week missed will be penalized as follows:

- **One extra absence:**
  1. by lowering the attendance and participation grade as determined by the professor

- **Two extra absences**
  2. by lowering the final grade by a whole letter grade

- **Three extra absences**
  3. by grading the whole course F

**Assessment Criteria**

- Quizzes and compositions: 30%
- Compositions: 10%
- Class participation: 15%
- Oral Presentations: 10%
Mid-Term Exam                                15%
Final Exam                                        20%

Quizzes and Exams: There will be four written quizzes, one written Mid-Term and a written cumulative Final Exam. Missed exams will be counted as an F. Short quizzes will be given at the beginning of some class periods.

Quiz n. 1 - T.B.A
Quiz n. 2 - T.B.A.
Mid-Term - T.B.A.
Quiz n. 3 - T.B.A.
Quiz n. 4 - T.B.A.
Final Exam - T.B.A.

Homework: students are expected to complete all the assigned homework in order to be well prepared for each class and are responsible for any work missed due to absence.

Oral Presentations. Individually or in small groups, students will prepare two dialogues to present for the class. They will first collaborate to write the text, and then perform in class. The written part will be included in the total grade.

Compositions: must be typed, double-spaced and submitted on the due date. Any writing done with translators (Google Translate, etc) will not be graded and no late submissions will be accepted without previous professor approval.

Grading scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.5 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 83</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 76</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 73</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>65 – 66</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
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SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL LEARNING:

1. EXPERIENCE ITALIAN CULTURE
2. USE ITALIAN WHENEVER POSSIBLE (IN THE PENSIONE, THE STORES, ETC.)
3. MEET ITALIANS!
4. TELL PEOPLE THAT YOU ARE STUDYING THE LANGUAGE “STO STUDIANDO L’ITALIANO” IF THEY USE ENGLISH WITH YOU
5. DON’T LET THE FEAR OF MAKING MISTAKES PREVENT YOU FROM SPEAKING